

AL ASEER

magazine



Exposing injustices against Muslim prisoners

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الأسير
المجلة

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*The men
believers and
the women
believers are
responsible for
each other...*”

Qur'an, 9:71

Editor's note

It was the second year after the Hijrah (623 CE) when the Khilafah (Islamic State) was celebrating its victory against its enemies, causing its hidden enemies to loath them in their darkness. Amongst those enemies was the tribe of Banu Qaynuqa'. Due to their anger and hatred for the new Islamic State, they attempted to instigate a war, a war that would cause their defeat. Their target was a Muslim woman.

This woman went to the marketplace of Banu Qaynuqa' and sat down near a goldsmith's to sell her goods. The goldsmith decided to harass her and dishonour her. He pinned down the back of her garment so when she stood up her clothing came off thereby revealing her. This caused the men standing around to laugh at her. She called out for help to which a Muslim man responded coming to her aide, he fought with the goldsmith and killed him. The men of Banu Qaynuqa' who were present killed the Muslim man. This caused a clash between the Muslims and Banu Qaynuqa' with the latter engaging in a rebellion. A full scale battle ensued ending in the expulsion of Banu Qaynuqa'.

The above is not an isolated incident within Islamic history, rather the Islamic Rulers and true scholars throughout Islamic history considered the honour of a Muslim woman to be paramount to the extent that they led their armies to war to free even one woman imprisoned by the enemies of Allah. The most famous example is of Al Mutasim Bi'llah who heard that a Muslim woman had been captured and dishonoured. He raced to her rescue leading the Muslim Army himself.


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In our modern times, the Muslim woman has been degraded endlessly by the non-Muslims (Kuffar) through their ideological, political, economic and military wars against Islam. Muslim women who are victims of these atrocities often end up imprisoned by the enemy. Sadly it would seem the likes of Al Mu'tasim Bi'llah don't exist among us today or are little in number. However, if we don't have the capability to free them physically or by ransom or prisoner exchange, there is still much that we can engage in to help our sisters. The pathways to activism and calling for their release are open to anyone but who among the Muslims is willing to hold the mantle?

In this issue of Al Aseer Magazine, we shed light upon a number of our sisters who are imprisoned by the despotic rulers (Tawagheet) of our time and also discuss, in an article, the role women have to play in the Da'wah.

I ask Allah to hasten the release of our Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world.

The Editor - *Abu Zubair Al Kanaadi*



The Islamic Rulers and true scholars throughout Islamic history considered the honour of a Muslim woman to be paramount to the extent that they led their armies to war to free even one woman imprisoned by the enemies of Allah

THE SCANDAL OF THE RAPE AND MURDER OF CHILDREN IN AL-HOL CAMP AND US/UK COMPLICITY!

The Syrian/Iraq war raged fiercely until recently and resulted in many Muslim women and children ending up in the detention camps of Al-Hol and Al-Roj in Syria which are managed by the Autonomous Authority of NorthEast Syria (largely Kurdish fighters). While the 'alliance', including the US and UK, who were fighting against the Islamic State claimed that they are all members of a proscribed terrorist organisation and therefore deserve what they get at the hands of the Kurdish, the reality is that their acquiescence with the Kurds in keeping 1000's of women and children in these camps is nothing short of an international scandal and outrage.

The refusal of the British in particular, not to take any women and children out of the camps is in effect aiding and abetting the rape, mutilation and torture of small children first and foremost and also thousands of vulnerable women and girls.

First hand eyewitness accounts from occupants of the Al-Hol camp alone reveal the following list of horrendous crimes against innocent babies and children:

1. Children suffering severe cold and severe heat with the temperate reaching 50 degrees plus.



2. Children being subject to attack by snakes, scorpions and venomous animals in the desert.



3. Heatstroke, malnutrition and dehydration caused by lack of water and medicine.



5. Soldiers deliberately shooting women and children causing many deaths and great injuries.



4. Traumatizing children by random raids on tents and separating children from mothers for days resulting in many children having developed mental illnesses.



6. Children being kidnapped by Kurd soldiers and being found dead with injuries and proof of rape.



Moreover, the abject poverty in which mothers find themselves with children starving to death has also resulted in many taking desperate measures to buy food for their sick and hungry children.

Both Muslims and Christians read about the narrative of Pharaoh of the time of Moses who asked for every newborn boy to be killed. It seems that the Kurd soldiers with the justification and consent of the US and UK have gone one better by not only killing any child randomly but also subjecting them to torture and unspeakable abuse which even the Nazis would have been ashamed of!



We ask all Muslims to raise their voices for the innocent children of Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps and to free them and their mothers immediately to a place of safety.



A Wife of an Aseer

When you hear the court verdict it takes a few minutes to sink in. You feel numb but you immediately remember Inna lillahi wa Inna ilayhi rajioun.

Who, when disaster strikes them, say, "Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return."

Those are the ones upon whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy. And it is those who are the [rightly] guided. (Qur'an 2:156-7)

This calamity and trial is from Allah and there is goodness in it for the believer. You remind yourself that Allah does not burden a soul more than it can bear. That your husband will be alright, Allah will get him through it. That you will be alright. Nevertheless it is a trial and it hits you hard. You fight back the tears and start to think how will you tell the children. How will they cope without their father. How will their father cope without them. A hundred things race through your mind but you keep reminding yourself that Allah would never place you in a situation you cannot bear.

When you hear the length of the prison sentence you just see a long long road ahead. Other sisters whose husbands have been in prison tell you "oh it will pass so quickly", you know they mean well but it doesn't really help because you just think of the years ahead without him. The one who is your security, the one who Allah said is your maintainer and protector who has qawama over you, is no longer by your side. Suddenly you will have to take care of everything, make the decisions, deal with the finances, raise the children alone. Allah assigns the roles of men and women according to their Fitra and that is why a woman is in need of the authority and security of her husband.

In addition to all of this, the state and authorities target you and harass you making your life difficult knowing that you are on your own. This is designed to break or weaken the resolve of you and your husband and to diminish your support for him.



You find yourself in a situation you never dreamed of. This brings you closer to Allah because you know Allah is your Wali and your Wakeel and He is sufficient for you. It is Him that you call upon for help. You seek his help against the oppressors and He never lets you down. Subhan Allah, He sends the help from places you could never imagine. Suddenly people you never met are offering you help simply because of the bond of Tawheed. Allah reveals many 'heroes' who don't see themselves as that but for the family of the Aseer these people who step forward and sacrifice to help you, to facilitate prison visits travelling hundreds of miles so your children can see their father. Or those that anonymously drop envelopes of money through your door or those that send gifts for your children or leave shopping for you. These are the people that Allah sends and may they all be rewarded with the blessings of Jannah. Ameen.

Little things mean so much like when a sister will call you just to see how you are or you receive a message through someone that people you never met are keeping your family in their dua. These are the blessings of being part of this Ummah.

Prison visits mean so much for the Aseer and for their children. Some people don't understand what a child goes through. It may look like they are okay on the outside but as a mother, when you find that they have a picture of their father hidden under their pillow and you read the letters they write to their father expressing how much they miss him, it's then that you realise how their little hearts are broken. When you see your teenage sons lost, suddenly without the guidance of their father, without that all important male figure, you feel sadness for them.

There are also the constant concerns about the welfare of your husband, how is he being treated? What is he going through? If he doesn't make his usual phone call from prison you start to panic, what has happened to him? As a wife you try and do everything you can to make it easier for him, to try and support him emotionally, you conceal your feelings and worries to make it easier for him

You find yourself constantly reassuring him that everything is fine, even if it is not.

You find yourself constantly reassuring him that everything is fine even if it is not.

Despite all of the hardships, well in fact because of the hardships, there are many blessings in this test. The fact that it is kafara for you and your family and it is an experience that allows you to taste the sweetness of Iman. You find yourself so close to Allah, you are able to wake up for tahajud so easily, you yearn for it so you can seek the help of Allah in the depths of the night.

There are many positive things that this test brings. The following hadith exemplifies this beautifully:

"How wonderful is the affair of the believer, for his affairs are all good, and this applies to no one but the believer. If something good happens to him, he is thankful for it and that is good for him. If something bad happens to him, he bears it with patience and that is good for him." (Narrated by Muslim, 2999).

Do not underestimate the small gestures of help for the families of the Aseer because they have a great impact on them. Insha Allah for those who offer their help and support, it will help them in their Akhirah.

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

"Whoever relieves the hardship of a believer in this world, Allah will relieve his hardship on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever helps ease one in difficulty, Allah will make it easy for him in this world and the Hereafter...."

Aafia Siddiqui

Bleeding wound of the Ummah

By Abu Aisha Al Kanadi

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said:

مثل المؤمنين في توادهم و تعاطفهم مثل الجسد الواحد
إذا اشتكى منه عضو تداعى له سائر الجسد بالسهر و الحمى

"The believers in their mutual love and compassion are like one body: If one organ complains, the rest of the body develops sleeplessness and fever."
(Bukhari and Muslim)

Such is the case of the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century, so many wounds but amongst those wounds is the suffering of many of our sisters at the hands of the modern day Taghut. A major symbol of this suffering is sister Aafia Siddiqui.

Sister Aafia is a symbol of the betrayal of the so-called Muslim rulers. In the past Muslim rulers or Caliphs would mobilise armies and pay whatever ransom was required to free Muslims being held by Kuffar regimes. The question arises what has the kufr Pakistani government done to free this sister, whom they described as "The Daughter of Pakistan"? The answer is nothing. Rather they used her name for media reasons but when push comes to shove they created the claim that the sister was an American citizen, thus washing their hands from her case. Not knowing they were washing themselves with the blood of a Muslim woman.

Sister Aafia is also a symbol of American oppression and injustice against the Modern Day

Ummah. The sister was kidnapped alongside her three children from her house in Pakistan. She was held in the notorious Bagram Prison. One of the victims of this prison recounted how there was a sister dubbed the "Grey Lady of Bagram", who the male prisoners would hear screaming due to torture. She was later tried in America for crimes.

Sister Aafia continues to face oppression and torture not only at the hands of her captors but at the hands of Anti-Islam prisoners alongside her in prison. She was denied access to her headscarf, her prayer mat and letters from her family. On July 30th 2021, she was attacked by a fellow inmate. Her family didn't know about this until her attorney visited her and saw the facial injuries. As a result of this attack Aafia was put in solitary confinement where she continued to suffer psychological trauma.

I call on Muslims to do their Islamic responsibility and to work for the release of our sister Aafia.

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DAW'AH

Dawah is to call to Islam for the sake of Allah ﷻ. It is a duty upon all Muslims, men and women. Allah ﷻ says in the Quran:

“Say (O Muhammed): This is my way, I do invite unto Allah with certain knowledge and whoever follows me must also invite others to the oneness of Allah with sure knowledge.” (12:108)

One does not have to be an Islamic scholar in order to be subject to this duty as the Messenger Muhammed ﷺ said “Convey on behalf of me even if it is one ayah.” (Muslim, Abu Dawoud and Tirmidhi).

Contrary to popular misconception, there is no distinction between men and women in the request to carry dawah, it is equally an obligation upon both. Allah ﷻ says “Believing men and women are friends of one another, they command good and forbid evil.” (EMQ 9:71). The above mentioned verse is a general address to all Muslims.

From the very beginning of Islam, women have played a vital role in the propagation of the deen. Many examples of women in the past illustrate the level of involvement of women in the struggle to change the corrupt society they lived in and call for Islam.

During the time of the Messenger Muhammed ﷺ, the Sahabiyyaat (female companions of the messenger Muhammed ﷺ) were at the forefront of the struggle sacrificing their wealth, their homes, families and their lives for the sake of Allah ﷻ. From the sacrifice of Summayyah ؓ for which she gave her life and was martyred, to the sacrifice of Khadija (ra) who funded the struggle in those early days, the Women in the time of the Messenger Muhammed ﷺ took their role as da'eeyah seriously and understood the need and obligation to

acquire knowledge. It is narrated by Abu Sa'eed al Khidri that the women used to approach the Messenger Muhammed ﷺ and say, “The men are keeping you busy and we do not get enough attention from you, would you specify a day to teach us?” Subsequently, He ﷺ promised them a day to meet with them and educate them. (Bukhari).

These women were part of the group of Muslims who despite being a minority (only around 40 Muslims in the 13 year struggle in Makkah), challenged the very foundation of the kufr (non-Islam) society they lived in. They forbade the munkar (evil) of the economy which was based on slavery and fraud. They exposed the corrupt social system where female infanticide was rife and women were treated as sex objects. They also attacked the ruling system based on the hierarchy of tribalism. They called for an end to worshipping idols and following man made rules and the establishment of worship (following, obeying and submitting) of Allah alone.

The struggle and call of these early Muslims was met with much hostility and persecution, very similar to the situation of the Muslim men and women who carry the call in the world today. They are met with the antagonism of the governments and their draconian terror laws that are designed to silence Muslims. Many scholars and da'ees around the world have been imprisoned for their dawah.

The establishment and spread of Islam is inevitable as Allah ﷻ says “It is He who has sent the Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth to prevail over all other religions even though the idolaters may detest it.” (EMQ 9:33)

Today we are needy more than ever for both men and women to enjoin good and forbid evil and call to the khair (ie Islam). With many Islamic scholars and Muslim activists being placed in prisons, Muslim brothers and sisters must step forward to carry the daw'ah and to continue the struggle to see the Deen of Islam is made dominant.